



Town of
Westford
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

February 2016



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm
978-692-5500

Subscribe to Town News



Receive Important Town
Notices and Information
[www.westfordma.gov/
subscriber](http://www.westfordma.gov/subscriber)

**Joint Boards Meeting to
review the Drew Gardens
Proposal**
Thursday, March 10
7:00 PM at the
Millennium School

**COA St. Patrick's
Luncheon on**
Tuesday, March 15
at the Franco.

Annual Town Meeting
will be held
Saturday, April 2
10:00 AM
At the Abbot School



Watch
Meetings Online
westford 
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

The plans for our new Center Fire Station are being further studied by our Permanent Town Building Committee with a revised plan being presented to the Selectmen at a future meeting. The preliminary plans that were presented resulted in a project that exceeded the appropriation at town meeting and the ballot. The committee is working diligently now to downsize the project while still providing adequate space for our needs now and into the future.

Our town's new Commission on Disability Affairs has been meeting regularly and has updated us on their work in this newsletter.

I am pleased to announce the receipt of \$10,000 from Emerson Hospital to sustain our elderly dental and shingles programs, and the receipt of a private donation of \$300 for our Coalition for Non Violence to continue our town's domestic violence prevention programs.

The Board of Selectmen recently heard recommendations by the Town Center Traffic Study Committee to study the addition of a 3-way stop on Boston Road and Main Street, to add a sidewalk extension at the corner of Boston Road and Lincoln Street, to add a crosswalk from Hildreth Street to the Common, to remove the telephone pole at the entrance to Town Hall, and make the driveway at the Library easier to exit. The board has placed an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to fund this engineering study.

The Pedestrian Safety Committee asked the board to approve spending Sidewalk Gift Account funds to allow them to hire a consultant to assist with prioritizing sidewalks, analyzing crosswalks, and identifying other pedestrian safety improvements. The board approved their request for about \$25,000 and has sent their recommendation to the Planning Board for their input.

The Recreation Commission is asking the Selectmen to consider leasing the Parks/Recreation and Cemetery Commission space for continuing operations while we attempt to sell the Town Farm. There is an article on the town meeting warrant as a placeholder while these discussions continue.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Town Meeting which will be held on April 2, 2016 in the Abbot School gymnasium at 10:00 a.m. The warrant is in draft form and will be reviewed and signed by the Board of Selectmen at their February 23rd meeting.

On March 10th at 7pm in the Millennium School there will be a joint boards' meeting of the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen to review the plans submitted with the Purchase and Sale of the Drew Gardens property, located at 66-68 Boston Road, by the developer and purchaser of the property, Ebi Masalehdan.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

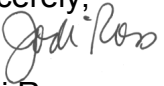
Mr. Masalehdan plans to partner with Springdale Farms to oversee the agricultural part of the project, and build a high end restaurant, along with a barn-like function room on the site. There will be an article in the Annual Town Meeting warrant requesting an amendment to one of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions that exist on the parcels.

By now most of you know we received the results of our energy aggregation bid to procure a competitive supply rate for electricity for the entire community with the low bid received of \$.0949/kWh for a term of 24 months, beginning January 2016. In December those of you who are not on another energy supply contract, received a 30 day opt-out Customer Notification Letter. During the opt-out period, if a resident or business owner does not send in the opt-out post card that is enclosed with the Customer Notification Letter, they will be automatically enrolled in the aggregation. Customers with a competitive supplier may join the aggregation after their contract with the alternate supplier has expired. If residents/business owners do not opt out, and choose to later, we have been informed they may opt out at any time. Those who do not opt out will still receive a bill from National Grid with Con Ed Solutions listed as the supplier. I have received many questions from residents, so please feel free to email me if you have questions still unanswered.

There are several openings on other local boards and committees, including the Bylaw Review Committee, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Energy Committee, Historical Commission, Tax Possession Sale Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Stay warm!

Sincerely,

Jodi Ross
Town Manager
















J.V. Fletcher Library

“Outside the Box” Services

The Fletcher Library strives to not only provide the highest standards of collections, programming and Reader's Advisory to our diverse community but to constantly increase the ways that we are both reflective of and responsive to Westford community needs.

Specifically, the Library:

-  Supports 23 *Westford Book Clubs* by ordering (on average 10 to 15) copies of the books that each Book Club will read.
-  Connects with all Westford School Library Teachers (Kindergarten through High School) via the *Westford Public School and Public Library Collaborative*.
-  Supports Westford School Library Teachers by offering them *Westford Teacher Library Cards*.
-  Is an active member of the *Westford Coalition for Non-Violence*.
-  Hosts the weekly *Westford Job Seekers Network*.
-  Provides collection *Outreach to the Homebound and the Elderly* via a staff member who drives to their homes or facilities.
-  Remains the source for free Meeting Room usage in town, hosting over 1,800 community group meetings annually.
-  Develops and maintains unique collections that have high interest for Westford patrons, such as: the *Foreign Language Deposit Collection* from the Boston Public Library; materials and books about the *Westford Knight* and books and databases for researching *local history* and family *genealogy*!
-  Offers one-on-one Device Advice tutorials (for patrons who want to learn how to download free eMaterials to their electronic devices.)
-  Sponsors *Link to Literacy* (a non-profit, volunteer run organization) by handing out both student and teacher applications and purchasing support literature to aid the teachers and students.
-  Provides wall space for community bulletins and brochures and display space for non-profit group donations and/or collection boxes.
-  Requests and distributes tax forms from the IRS and the Commonwealth and provides printout service when we do not receive the forms our Patrons need.
-  Circulates a high power telescope for family star-gazing.

Research, learn and discover.

WWW.WESTFORDLIBRARY.ORG

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Health Department

HEALTHY EATING HABITS START AT HOME

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), about 1/3 of Americans are overweight or obese, including 13-million children. High cholesterol, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes used to be most common in adulthood, but is now becoming more prevalent in younger populations. This is partly due to the fact that families are struggling to maintain healthy eating habits at home.

The AHA recommends the following to help families start eating healthier:

- Plan meals ahead of time
- Have kids get involved in the family meal and pick out healthy ingredients
- Add fresh, frozen or dried fruits and vegetables into your diet
- Reduce the amount of salt intake and limit the amount of sugar used
- Use healthy oils: canola, olive, corn, sunflower, safflower, sesame and soybean
- Enjoy meals together by keeping the dinner table free of cellphones, video games, TV and computers

Setting healthy examples now can lead to a lifetime of healthy eating!



HEALTH DEPARTMENT COMPLETES FDA FOOD STANDARD 7

On February 3rd the Westford Health Department completed and met all requirements for Standard #7 Industry and Community Relations of the FDA Retail Food Standards program. The standard was met as a result of the department showing that we communicate sound public health food safety standards and foster and recognize community initiatives which focus on the reduction of foodborne illness disease risk factors. Being a participant in this program continues to help improve our food inspectional program, our community education outreach, and qualifies our community for food safety grants!



DEPARTMENT HELD INSTALLERS SEMINAR

On January 28th 2016, the Westford Health Department and Presby Environmental hosted a successful 2-hour seminar on Presby Environmental Septic System technology for local Septic System Installers and Civil Engineers. Forty-nine people were in attendance and received continuing education credits toward their licenses.

Health Department (Continued)

INFORMATION ON FOOD POISONING

Food Safety is an important public health priority. Foodborne illness (sometimes called "foodborne disease," foodborne infection," or "food poisoning) is a common, costly-yet preventable-public health problem. CDC estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases.

RULES OF FOOD SAFETY

CLEAN

Wash your hands and surfaces often. Germs can survive in many places around your kitchen, including your hands, utensils, and cutting boards.

Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running water and always follow the [rules of food safety](#).

SEPARATE

Don't cross-contaminate. Even after you've cleaned your hands and surfaces thoroughly, raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs can still spread germs to ready-to-eat foods—unless you keep them separate.

COOK

Cook to the [right temperature](#). While many people think they can tell when food is "done" simply by checking its color and texture, there's no way to be sure it's safe without following a few important but simple steps. Use a food thermometer to ensure that foods are cooked to a safe internal temperature: 145°F for whole meats (allowing the meat to rest for 3 minutes before carving or consuming), 160°F for ground meats, and 165°F for all poultry. [Watch the COOK video!](#)

CHILL

Keep your refrigerator below 40°F and refrigerate foods properly. Germs can grow in many foods within 2 hours unless you refrigerate them. (During the summer heat, cut that time down to 1 hour.)

For more information on preventing food poisoning, check your steps at [FoodSafety.gov](#) or go to <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/BeFoodSafe/>

Fire Department

On Saturday, February 6, 2016 for the first time in Westford Fire Department's history, several members of the Westford Fire Department joined hundreds of other firefighters from across New England in participating in the American Lung Association "Fight for Air" stair climb in Boston. The "Fight for Air Climb" raises money to make a positive impact for those affected by lung disease, so we decided to support the cause.

Firefighters were faced with climbing 41 stories wearing their full turn out gear with air packs adding an additional 70 pounds to their body weight. The 41 floors consisted of 82 flights and a total of 789 stairs, all in the interest of raising money for a good cause. The Westford L3126 team completed this climb in an average of 14 minutes.



The team consisted of Capt. Paul Lemieux, Lt. Mike Denehy, Firefighters Sean Brown (Team Captain), Mike Cool, Zach Driscoll, Dave Lefebvre, and Darren Lanier.

All members were successful in completing the stair climb, and raised over \$1700 for the charity.

Happenings at the Cameron Council on Aging

Regency Inn hosts Mid-Winter luncheon

With the support of the **Westford Rotary Club** and the **Cummings Foundation** a nice time was had by all with music by vocalist Tommy Rull. The jitter bug and dancing was also fun to watch and partake.

Join us for our next celebration which will be our **St. Patrick's luncheon** on Tuesday, March 15th at the Franco. Lunch will be prepared by Shirley Caterers and served at 11:30. Cost \$10, please RSVP to 978-692-5523.



Special thanks to our partners in our Travel Around the World night which featured local dancers of Westford taught by Preethi Ramesh and delicious food from **Rangoli Grill** and **Seoul Kitchen**.

A taste of what is coming in March at the Cameron

- Boston Flower Show trip on Mon. March 4 leaving the Cameron at 10AM, cost is \$30, includes transportation and entry ticket.
- Brunch and Beads March 23rd at 10:30AM with Kathy Cunningham of Coldwell Banker and Diana Baranowski.
- Veterans Lunch sponsored by American Legion Post-159 with Bill Vullo and Terry Stader, Town VA Officer and guest.
- Six week Watercolor class with Cynthia Van Horne held each Thursday. Starting March 17th thru Apr. 21 from 10AM -Noon. Cost is \$20, (this does not include materials)

Council On Aging

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Let us know if you can volunteer!

Snow Shoveling - Seeking folks who can remove snow from walkways for seniors who really need help.

Handymen - Seeking helpers for small projects and heavier jobs, like installing window air conditioners.

For more info call Annette at 978-399-2326 or email acerullo@westfordma.gov



TRANSPORTATION

Winter is a busy season ~ but we offer affordable rides to medical appointments, shopping or trips to the Senior Center for your convenience. Every Wednesday, we run trips to Market Basket.

To schedule a ride, please give us as much notice as possible. Call 978-399-2322 at least 48 hours in advance.

Round-trip cost for rides within Westford: \$3; for surrounding towns: \$6; and for outlying towns: \$8.

Should you need to cancel the day of your ride, please call 978-692-5523.

When leaving any messages, please leave your name and phone number.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, March 15, at Franco American Club.

Wear your green and join us for the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner ~ with entertainment.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch provided by Shirley Caterers will be served around 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$7, due at sign-up. Call 978-692-5523 by March 7.



ELEGANT CHEF LUNCHES

Monday, Feb. 22, at noon

Culinary students from Nashoba Tech's Elegant Chef restaurant will be preparing and serving delightful hot meals once a month at the Cameron!

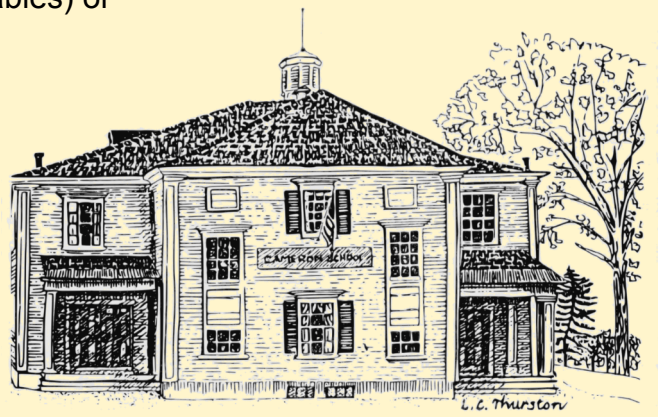
Classic New England Yankee pot roast (beef & vegetables) or grilled Salmon with a maple Dijon glaze.

Homemade Tomato Bisque soup, rolls & Chocolate Cake.

To reserve, call 978-692-5523 by Feb. 18.

Cost: \$5 per meal.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website: www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Westford's Commission on Disability

During the 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Westford voted to form a Commission on Disability (COD) to help address the needs of its disabled residents. Town officials subsequently selected volunteers to comprise the commission, and the COD has been meeting monthly since late July to establish the connections and background necessary to determine how to best serve the disabled community. The COD intends to complement existing town roles, as well as compile information related to the rights of the disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Guests at early COD meetings have included Matt Hakala, Westford's ADA Coordinator, and Town Engineer Paul Starratt, who play critical roles in facilitating residents' needs and enforcing compliance with relevant building codes, respectively. In addition, Ellen Rainville, Director of the J.V. Fletcher Library, and several other library representatives have visited the COD to outline early facility improvement concepts and to solicit inputs related to residents' accessibility needs.

At its most recent meeting in late January, the COD was pleased to host Jeff Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services of the Massachusetts Office on Disability. Jeff provided a great deal of information concerning CODs and described activities undertaken by other communities' CODs around the state.



front row (l-r): Jan Horner, Jack Horner, Kate Phaneuf, Pat Reppucci.
back row (l-r): Jeff Dougan, Ray Clark.

The accompanying picture features Jeff with a number of those present at the meeting. In general, the COD meets at night on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Recycling Commission

RECYCLE TO THE MAX! LOWER TOWN TRASH COSTS!

The Town of Westford pays \$68 per ton of trash picked up and delivered to the incinerator. These are precious tax dollars that literally go up in smoke. However, there is NO additional cost per ton of recyclables picked up at curbside. To lower personal trash output, recycle ALL clean glass bottles and jars, metal cans, plastic containers (#1-7, not #6 Styrofoam), paper and cardboard, aluminum pans and foil, flattened boxes, and old telephone books and spiral notebooks.

For specific recycling information: www.westfordma.gov/recycling.

OPTION TO BUY A RECYCLING TOTER

All yellow and black recycling totes used by Westford residents were provided by Integrated Paper Recyclers (IPR) and are owned by the town. No more of them will be available. When a homeowner moves, the yellow and black tote stays with the home.

The Westford Recycling Commission offers green 64-gallon wheeled recycling totes for sale. They are made of 100% recycled material. This is an option for residents, not a requirement. If you want to purchase one, send or take a \$50 check made out to the "Town of Westford" to the Town Clerk, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. Include your name, address and phone number and you will be contacted.



You can also use any sturdy container for your recyclables with a "RECYCLABLES" sticker affixed to it. FREE

stickers are available at the Town Clerk's office or you can send a SASE

envelope to the Town Clerk and a sticker will be mailed to you.



WESTFORD STYROFOAM COLLECTION APRIL 16, 2016

Start to collect all your clean Styrofoam for the Styrofoam recycling event on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Styrofoam will be collected by ReFoamIt, Leominster, MA. Details: www.refoamit.com. Collection arranged by the Green Action Team, First Parish Church. Open to Westford residents only. No charge.

**WESTFORD THANKS YOU
FOR RECYCLING, REDUCING,
REUSING, AND REPURPOSING.**

www.westfordma.gov/recycling



Around Westford

Ekaru of Westford donates to the Cameron Senior Center

Proudly displayed is an Xhibit Board and 32' flat screen TV Cameron Senior Center staff excitedly receive from Ekaru, a computer and network company of Westford. The new Xhibit Board will display daily activities, calendars, local news, pictures taken at the center and much more. Ekaru recently visited the center and enjoyed a tour of the Cameron. Not pictured is Tom Laflamme, Westford IT Applications Manager and Mike Wells, IT Director.



Top left to right: Eric Drouin, Leonid Freeman, Peter Summers, Ann Westerheim (President and founder), Nancy Amato, Frits Riep and Tony Marciello. Bottom Row: Brian Brackett and COA staff members Katie Russell and Jennifer Claro

